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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,156	03/29/2004	Tsutomu Uematsu	040080	1118

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EXAMINER

LABAZE, EDWYN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 05/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,156

Applicant(s)

UEMATSU ET AL.

Examiner

EDWYN LABAZE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8 and 10-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3292004.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Receipt is acknowledged of IDS filed on 3/29/2004.
2. Claims 1-24 are presented for examination.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

5. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Do et al. (U.S. 6,502,746).

Re claims 1 and 7: Do et al. discloses device, method, and system for extracting deposited items from an ATM/CAT safe, which includes a bag insertion portion {herein deposit entry slot 6 at front}, having a receiving portion which receives the inserted bag and a reader 70 {herein broadly interpreted as a transponder and interrogator device for access and tracking of extracted deposited items} which reads information of a storing portion of said bag in said receiving portion (col.11, lines 55+); a cassette housing portion {herein item storage bin 10}

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which houses a replaceable cassette {herein interpreted as the deposit transfer bin 36} for placing therein the bag inserted into said receiving portion and having a storing portion (col.11, lines 40+; col.13, lines 58+); and a control portion {herein broadly interpreted as control unit 58} which judges whether the bag can be received through said read information by said reader of said bag insertion portion, and places the receivable bag in said cassette (col.13, lines 1-34). Do et al. further teaches that the control portion writes {herein as means of auditing the number and value of deposited items} information for said placed bags in the storing portion of said cassette (col.4, lines 25+; col.12, lines 1-14).

Re claims 2 and 8: Do et al. teaches a system and method, wherein said bag insertion portion further comprises a shutter mechanism 30 for placing said bag in said cassette from said receiving portion, and said control portion 58 operates said shutter mechanism to place said receivable bag in said cassette (col.9, lines 50+).

Re claims 4 and 10: Do et al. discloses a system and method, an input portion for input of identification data {herein a password or PIN number} of a person who inserted said bag; and a lock mechanism to lock said bag insertion portion, and wherein said control portion 58 judges the validity of said input identification information {password/ PIN number} and releases the lock of said lock mechanism (col.8, lines 1-10; col.12, lines 49-67; col.13, lines 50+).

Re claims 5-6 and 11-12: Do et al. teaches a system and method, wherein said cassette has a door covering an aperture for receiving said bag from said receiving portion, and said cassette housing portion has a cassette lock mechanism to open said door of said inserted cassette (col.13, lines 58-67+).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3, 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 13-24 are allowed.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of records, taken alone or in combination with any other references, fails to teach means of pulling out the bag insertion portion such that the receiving portion can receive the bag in the vertical direction, and the control portion, after the bag insertion portion has been pulled out, detects the return of the bag insertion portion, and receives the read information from the reader, and further a scrutiny processing device for reading the transported cassette and information stored on the bag for performing scrutiny processing. These limitations in conjunction with other limitations in the claimed invention were not shown by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Keith, III et al. (U.S. 5,944,163) discloses drop safe.

McGunn et al. (U.S. 6,885,281) teaches method and apparatus for controlling a safe having an electronic lock.

Hughes et al. (US 2004/0210515) teaches deposit system and method of taking deposits.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDWYN LABAZE whose telephone number is (571) 272-2395. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

el
Edwyn Labaze
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2876
May 8, 2006



**THIEN M. LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER**